

SLOSEA

San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Notes

12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 12, 2007
Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay, CA

Members Present: Deborah Barker, Dan Berman, Nick Franco, Henriette Groot, Leslie Krinsk, Susan Lichtenbaum, Don Maruska, Cheryl McGovern, Juventino Ortiz, Christine Pattison, Leslie Rebik, Gary Ruggerone, Kirk Sturm, Lars Tomanek, Dean Wendt

Guests Present: Allison Chan, Lauren Hitt, Annie Gillespie, Mark Moline, John Penvenne, Henry Pontarelli, John Stephens, Betsy Turner

Members Absent: Rick Algett, Ross Clark, Elizabeth Clarke, Mel de la Motte, Tim Duff, John Field, Matt Janssen, Carole Maurer, Carolyn Moffatt, Marla Morrissey, Michelle Roest, John Steinbeck, Karen Worcester

[Advisory Committee comments, questions and suggestions in italics]

Ecosystem Updates by Resource Managers: During working lunch, resource managers reported current activity areas for their agencies. *Ruggerone reported that the Bay Foundation has received funding for water quality monitoring from San Mateo to Santa Barbara County. McGovern indicated that EPA had received wetlands grants. Pattison notified us that there is a new Fish & Game office in San Luis Obispo. When queried about the status of the Management Action Memo, she indicated that there had been no response from upper management yet. Berman reported that MBNEP has begun a major restoration project on Walters Creek, and has installed several new signs around the bay. Gillespie commented on readiness for the First Flush sampling. Stephens reported that recent sampling had yielded some English Sole and some Halibut. The Coastal Users Survey was reported as complete (June 25 – September 2), and results are being analyzed by Chan and the Bren students. Ortiz indicated that he had replaced Greg Smith at State Parks, and his area has expanded to include area from Montana de Oro to Lime Kiln. There is a lift station replacement project, and State Parks is awaiting approval for the trail from the Marina to the Peninsula (ADA boardwalk). Franco reported a \$15M cut to the State Parks operations budget. The State Parks position letter to Fish & Game, regarding the Owl Limpet issue, has been sent. The new State Parks area has been christened “Harmony Headlands”. Lichtenbaum reported Harbor District collaboration with Nature Conservancy on the Sea Trails project, MBNEP on collection of monofilament lines, and Ships to Reefs on placement of artificial reefs off Morro Bay coast. Barker described the current project of development of managed grazing systems, by fencing off creeks, installing water systems for cattle, repair of gullies, and addition of “frog troughs”. Krinsk reported that a support letter for the Owl Limpet MAM had been sent. Groot commented on a recent trip to the Galapagos, and the many regulations on anchorages, paths, and animal approach. All were reminded that Coastal Cleanup Day is September 15, 2007.*

SLOSEA Program Updates

- Initiatives – Wendt gave a brief update of the Human Access and Bathymetry projects.
- Outreach & Website – *Penvenne alerted group that the website has been up for a while, and is being populated. Chan will provide additional information for the socio-economic indicators initiative. Suggestions were made to add information on oysters, and strength and direction of wind. Wendt provided a demonstration of the current dashboard. A suggestion was made to bring the website to the AC for discussion and input at the December 2007 meeting. Within the Forum, the “General” area will be renamed to “Events/General”.*
- California Collaborative Fisheries Program – Wendt provided an explanation of the program. *Concern was expressed over the MIG’s approval of such a project. Questions arose on which initiative to attach the program to, or should it stand alone? One opinion indicated that fishermen would probably prefer to have their own initiative. The Science & Management Linkages initiative seems to act as an umbrella to all other initiatives. It was agreed to let the Collaborative Fisheries Program stand alone as an initiative.*

SLOSEA Science in Action – Activities & Data

- The Value of Eco-Proteomics for Management – (see powerpoint presentation) Lars Tomanek provided an overview of the initiative. Proteomics is the simultaneous study of various proteins. There are up-regulators and down-regulators. The process looks at various stressors of each organism. The group has targeted Nitrate as the stressor they are most interested in. It is important to target a singular stressor to measure cellular response. Observation of tumor growth indicates problems in the bay.

EBM Indicators of Success

- Discussion and development of indicators where SLOSEA is having an impact. Wendt reported that Packard program officers had provided 3 indicators of success, including (1) geographic area, (2) matching funding, and (3) peer reviewed publications. Wendt suggested using indicators that were more appropriate for our program, including (1) interagency communication and collaboration, (2) science being used for management purposes, and (3) engagement of stakeholders through outreach and education. *Discussion ensued over how best to present the connections between agencies during the AC meeting stakeholder updates. Perhaps a narrative can be developed of case studies between agencies. Suggestion was made to ask each AC member present to describe the value of SLOSEA to their agency or organization. Comments are listed in the order given.*

Franco: For the Public Access Intertidal Impact – we are receiving data, not opinions. Observations, volunteer training, and trail access planning have been valuable.

Lichtenbaum: The website dashboard is visual, time-sensitive, and a focused place for gathering information. The collaborative fisheries section of the website answers many frequently asked questions.

Penvenne: Good education of the general public

Moline: It would be helpful to put a flatscreen on the data table in the MBNEP and MBHD offices, to provide real-time environmental knowledge.

Barker: Provision of seasonal management techniques

Groot: Rewards people for engagement in discussion

Krinsk: Provides sound science. Lessens contention between stakeholders

McGovern: Sound science for EPA

Ortiz: Socio-economic work is valuable to State Parks

Sturm: Followed MBNEP's lead, and changed concessionaire's requirements for the Clean Marine Program

Tomanek: Engages scientists in community issues

Berman: Creates interactions between scientists and public

Chan: Success at measuring Stakeholder interactions